

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 139583
ORIGIN EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 OES-02 HA-02 DODE-00 IO-06
INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 PM-03 PA-01 L-01 DLOS-02
INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /043 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:FMISCH:CSA
APPROVED BY EA/K:MR. RICH
-----043420 020204Z /12
O 020055Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 139583

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PEPR, MOPS, KS, KN, US

SUBJECT:REPATRIATION OF NORTH KOREAN FISHERMEN

REF:(A) STATE 138207 (B) SEOUL 4629

1. ON JUNE 1, DEPT INFORMED KOREAN EMBASSY POLITICAL
OFFICER SHIN OF US VIEW THAT NORTH KOREAN FISHERMEN SHOULD
BE REPATRIATED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ENCOURAGE CONTINUA-
TION OF PRACTICE OF PROMPT RETURN OF PERSONS WHO
INADVERTENTLY CROSS MILITARY DEMARCATION LINE.

2. SHIN SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD USG POSITION AND WOULD
INFORM SEOUL OF OUR VIEWS. HE ASKED IF WE FELT THAT THE
MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION SHOULD BE THE VEHICLE FOR
EFFECTING RETURN OF THE FISHERMEN. DEPT OFFICER SAID WE
HAD NO PARTICULAR VIEWS ON NATURE OF RETURN, AND WE THINK
THIS CAN BE WORKED OUT IN SEOUL.

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3. AS ALTERNATIVE TO HANDLING ISSUE EXCLUSIVELY IN MAC
CHANNEL, EMBASSY MAY WISH TO CONSIDER SUGGESTING TO ROKG
THAT FISHERMEN BE RETURNED UNDER RED CROSS AUSPICES.
SUCH A HUMANITARIAN GESTURE COULD HELP REOPEN THAT CHANNEL
OF SOUTH-NORTH COMMUNICATION AND FACILITATE RESOLUTION
OF DILEMMA CAUSED BY INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF "SPY BOAT"

SINKING.

4. FYI: WE RECALL THAT CONSIDERABLE BUREAUCRATIC
INFIGHTING BETWEEN ROK RED CROSS AND POLICE OR KCIA
ATTENDED REPATRIATION OF LAST ROK FISHING BOAT CAPTURED
BY NORTH. RED CROSS WAS EVENTUALLY PUSHED OUT OF PICTURE.
END FYI.
VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPATRIATION, FISHERMEN, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE139583
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FMISCH:CSA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780230-0448
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806101/aaaadjhv.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9314777c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 138207, 78 SEOUL 4629
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2141832
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPATRIATION OF NORTH KOREAN FISHERMEN
TAGS: PEPR, MOPS, KS, KN, US
To: SEOUL
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9314777c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014